

SN 09/397,325 FINAL DOCUMENT

the information transfer location they are maintained in their originally arranged sequence.

14. The method of Claim 8 wherein the dwell time is adjusted by the operator.

B 2
15. The method of Claim 8 wherein during repetitive movement of the input alphanumeric characters toward and through the information transfer location they are maintained in their originally arranged sequence.

16. The method of Claim 9 wherein during repetitive movement of the input alphanumeric characters toward and through the information transfer location they are maintained in their originally arranged sequence.

REMARKS

Rejected Claims 1 through 5 have been cancelled and withdrawn from this application, and reserved for inclusion in a Continuing Application. New Claims 6 through 16 have been added. Independent Claim 6, and dependent Claims 7-16 are now in this application.

New independent Claim 6 is clearly and patentably distinguished over the references relied on by the Examiner as

SN 09/397,325 FINAL DOCUMENT
well as all the other references of record. It specifies

"... an information transfer location at which the
characters may be visibly displayed; ..."

According to the present invention, therefore, the eyes of the
operator need to specially watch only one specific location.

This is in sharp contrast to Wall, in which information available
for selection is displayed at a plurality of separate locations,
requiring the operator to look in several different directions at
the same time. It is readily apparent that Applicant's method is
far more user friendly than the method as taught by Wall.

Claim 6 also specifies that each individual character
is visually displayed at the transfer location during a selected
dwell time, and may be selected during that time. As the
Examiner has conceded, this feature of Applicant's method is not
shown by Wall, the principal reference. Nor does any other of
the references of record either show or suggest this approach.
The dwell time may be chosen to accommodate both the mental and
physical speed of the operator in making selections.

Independent Claim 6 further specifies as essential to
the present invention that upon the second or subsequent
presentation of the same input sequence of alphanumeric
characters, the input sequence again moves toward and into the
information transfer location. Selected characters may again be
copied during their respective dwell times at the transfer

SN 09/397, 325 FINAL DOCUMENT

location, and are then added onto the output sequence. Thus, motion of the input information relative to the transfer location occurs during both original and subsequent presentations. A selected item **continues to be a part of the rotating input, as well as being part of the separately displayed output.**

The combination of a specific information transfer location, and a dwell time during which each character of the input sequence is displayed at that transfer location, clearly and patentably distinguishes the present invention over the references.

In the illustrated exercise as shown in Applicant's sole drawing figure it will be noted that the creation of the sole phrase **"Now is the time for all good men to come to ..."** has required the letter "n" to be copied twice; the letter "o" to be copied seven times; the letter "i" to be copied twice; the letter "t" to be copied four times; the letter "e" to be copied four times; the letter "m" to be copied twice; and the letter "l" to be copied twice. The present invention deals with basic building blocks of information, and the processing of them. This mode of operation evidences both a purpose and a result not contemplated in any of the references.

Claim 7, dependent from Claim 6, further specifies that the input sequence of alphanumeric characters is moved along an

SN 09/397,325 FINAL DOCUMENT

arcuate path toward and into the information transfer location. This aspect of the invention is advantageous, partly because it allows better fitting of the information on the screen or other display medium, and partly because it makes the selection process easier for the operator or viewer. When an arcuate path is followed, only one character will be in the correct position in the transfer location. The characters before and after will be in a slightly incorrect position, and perhaps angularly as well. It thus becomes easier for the operator to differentiate the about-to-be-selected character from those before or after it.

Claim 8, also dependent from Claim 6, further specifies that in the input sequence the alphanumeric characters are visually displayed to the operator while they are approaching the transfer location. This claimed feature provides advance notice to the operator of the upcoming selection choices and makes it more convenient for the operator to decide upon and accomplish selections at maximum speed and efficiency.

Claim 9, also dependent from Claim 6, specifies that the dwell time is adjusted by the operator. The dwell time is obviously important, because it may be chosen to accommodate both the mental and physical speed of the operator in making selections. Adjustment by the operator to suit his or her particular needs is an important feature.

Dependent Claim 10 provides that during repetitive

SN 09/397,325 FINAL DOCUMENT


movement of the input alphanumeric characters toward and through the information transfer location they are maintained in their originally arranged sequence. This feature allows the operator to rely in part upon her or his memory as to the sequence in which the input characters are approaching, instead of relying totally upon the information then visible on the screen, and therefore makes it possible to perform the selection process faster and more efficiently.

Dependent Claims 11 through 16 are dependent upon one or more of the previously discussed dependent claims, and are therefore more limited in scope.

The Wall reference does not in any way suggest its combination with Meissen, the secondary reference; nor does Meissen contain any suggestion to combine its teachings with those of Wall. Even if there were such suggestions, however, the combination of the two references would fail to provide the novel method defined in Applicant's claims.

Favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


Gene W. Arant
Applicant

December 6, 2002

P.O. Box 269
Lincoln City,
OR 97367

Tel. 541-557-1716
FAX 541-557-1722

8